

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claim 19; and amends Claims 1 and 20. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for Claim 1 is found in canceled Claim 19. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-6 and 20 will be pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,607,599 ("Ichihara-599"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ichihara-599 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,296 ("Ichihara-296"). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ichihara-599 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,602,620 ("Kikitsu").

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication the Claims 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Final Rejection at page 4, lines 17-19. Allowable Claim 19 is canceled and incorporated into independent Claim 1. Thus, the pending claims are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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